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**From:** FEMA-R5-Watch [FEMA-R5-Watch@fema.dhs.gov]  
**Sent:** 7/25/2021 10:00:18 AM  
**Subject:** Elevated Metals in Ground Water-Illinois-Winnebago Co.- RV ADVISORY-07252021-Initial



FEMA

**Elevated Metals in Ground Water- Illinois-Winnebago Co.- RV ADVISORY-07252021- Initial**

**DATE/TIME:** Sunday, July 25, 2021, 0500 CDT

**LOCATION:** Rockton (Winnebago Co), Illinois

**SUMMARY:** Media outlets have reported that elevated levels of metals have been discovered in 16 of 20 groundwater monitoring wells in Rockton, Illinois.

- Illinois EPA has stated that the metals were *not* found in the municipal water system serving Rockton;
- However, as a precaution, health officials have advised residents in the Blackhawk neighborhood near the Chemtool property to not use their private wells for drinking or cooking;
- According to Winnebago County Health Department, private wells in the area will be tested in the next few days;
- Back on June 14, 2021, there was a large explosion and fire at the Chemtool chemical plant in Rockton, however at this time, authorities have not directly linked the elevated metal levels to that fire;
- Identified metals in the ground water included: antimony, cadmium, chromium and nickel.

There have been no requests for FEMA assistance.

**STATE/LOCAL RESPONSE:** The Illinois SEOC is at Full Activation (COVID-19).

**FEDERAL RESPONSE:** The FEMA Region V RRCC is at Partial Activation (COVID-19). The RWC is Normal Operations.

**SOURCE OF INFORMATION:** The Pantagraph; CBS Chicago; Fox 32; WREX

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** FEMA Region V Watch Center, 312-408-5365/5498 or FEMA-R5-Watch@fema.dhs.gov.

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